

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 are amended. No new subject matter is added. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 9 are otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejections to claims 1 and 9 are addressed below.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claims 1, 7, and 9 are identified as being indefinite.

Regarding claims 1 and 9, the claims are allegedly indefinite because it is unclear how the recited “at least one forwarding processor” is physically or functionally interconnected to other components of the network device, or to a conversion process. Accordingly, claims 1 and 9 are amended to recite that the “at least one forwarding processor” is “communicatively coupled” to the “at least one control processor” (claim 1) or to the “at least two control processors” (claim 9). Support for this amendment may be found in the original application, at, e.g., FIGS. 1 and 2. Consequently, the applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 9 be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 7, the claim is allegedly indefinite because there is insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation of “said module” in line 1 of claim 7. Claim 7 was previously amended in response to the final Office action mailed on 13 November 2007. In particular, the recitation of “said module” was deleted and replaced with “said virtual interface,” which finds sufficient antecedent support in claim 1. Consequently, the applicant requests that the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are requested. Please telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd J. Iverson", is written over a horizontal line.

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